

Message Text

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UNCLAS TANANARIVE 1060

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MA

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF NEW MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE DIDIER
RATSIRAKA ON TAKING OATH OF OFFICE

REF: TANANARIVE 1057

1. NEW MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE CAPT. DIDIER RATSIRAKA FORMALLY TOOK OATH AND WAS INVESTED WITH SASH AND TRAPPINGS OF OFFICE AT TELEVISED CEREMONY JUNE 15 ATTENDED BY ALL MEMBERS OF MILITARY DIRECTORY, SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF INSTITUTIONS, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL POPULAR COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER NOTABLES. GEN. ANDRIAMHAZO, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF MILITARY DIRECTORY, INTRODUCED RATSIRAKA WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TIME HAD COME TO ESTABLISH MORE PERMANENT INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE FOR REGIME AND THAT RATSIRAKA WAS CHOSEN TO BE PRESIDENT OF NEW "SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" BY SECRET VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS OF MILITARY DIRECTORY JUNE 14.

2. RATSIRAKA, FOLLOWING OATH OF OFFICE AS NEW CHIEF OF STATE, FIRST EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO GEN. ANDRIAMHAZO FOR HIS SERVICE TO COUNTRY IN "DIFFICULT TIMES", AND ANNOUNCED THAT ANDRIAMHAZO HENCEFORTH WILL BE PRESIDENT OF NEW "MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT". RATSIRAKA ALSO EULOGIZED FORMER CHIEF OF STATE COL. RICHARD RATSIMANDRAVA, WHO HE SAID WAS "ASSASSINATED BY THE ENEMIES OF THE REVOLUTION."

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3. ADDRESSING MALAGASY PEOPLE, RATSIRAKA CALLED ON THEIR HELP IN BUILDING A NEW AND JUST SOCIETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEN-POINT PROGRAM OF THE MILITARY DIRECTORY, ISSUED APRIL 12. CONCERNING RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED VERDICT OF MILITARY TRIBUNAL ON RATSIMANDRAVA ASSASSINATION, RATSIRAKA CALLED ON THE POPULACE TO MAINTAIN "SANG FROID" AND NOT LET ITSELF BE "DECEIVED BY MANUEVERS OF IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR PUPPETS WHO ONLY WISH TO DISUNITE US."

4. FOLLOWING CEREMONY AND ADDRESS, RATSIRAKA REVIEWED TROOPS FROM ALL UNITS OF MALAGASY ARMED FORCES AND GENDARMERIE DRAWN UP IN FRONT OF FORMER FRENCH GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE AND EMBASSY, TURNED OVER TO GOMR RECENTLY AND APPARENTLY TO BE RESIDENCE OF MALAGASY CHIEF OF STATE. ELFERS

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